Carton says his days at Ohio State are over

SPORTS, C1

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The Columbus Dispatch

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Trump may put strings on bailouts

Jill Colvin and Deb Riechmann
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday the government should take partial ownership of companies bailed out in the coronavirus pandemic, a step that would mark an extraordinary federal reach into the private sector if he was serious. He also held out hope that treatments for COVID-19 might be at hand, voicing far more optimism about quick therapies than federal scientists have expressed.

Trump called the battle against coronavirus a "medical war," not a "financial war." But he said he believed the U.S. government should take equity stakes in some companies hit hard by the pandemic and aided by taxpayers. Some Republicans in Congress worry this could lead to the government picking winners and losers. It was not clear that Trump had made any firm decision to attach such strings.

"We will be helping the airline industry," he said. "We will be helping the cruise ship industry. We probably will be helping the hotel industry." He said his administration also will help small businesses, the "engine of the country."

Trump sought to calm the public's fears as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S. climbed above 11,000, with at least 168 deaths. He gave an upbeat promotion of therapeutic drugs in early testing that he said could be "a game-changer and maybe not" in treating those suffering with COVID-19.

But the head of the Food and Drug Administration cautioned that the drugs are still being tested for their effectiveness and safety, a process that takes months and may or may not yield anything. And a few hours after Trump's remark, the FDA reminded the

See BAILOUTS, Page A4

'Not a supply-chain issue'

A worker gathers products Thursday at the Kroger distribution center in Delaware. In response to the coronavirus outbreak, Kroger and other grocery stores across central Ohio are emphasizing that their supply chains remain good.
[JOSHUA A. BICKEL/DISPATCH]

Grocers tell public they have plenty of food, products despite run on stores

Jim Weiker The Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Central Ohio grocers sought to deliver a message to customers this week: Calm down. We aren't running out of food.

Giant Eagle, which operates 23 central Ohio stores, and Kroger, which has 116 stores in its central Ohio division, hosted tours Wednesday and Thursday designed to show that in these extraordinary times, the food supply is solid.

"Buy what you need at this point," said Brian Ferrier, regional vice president of operations for Giant Eagle. "There's plenty in our distribution centers and plenty in the supply chain."

Ferrier and other grocery store officials acknowledge, though, that stores are taking unprecedented measures to deal with what one grocer called "Thanksgiving shopping every day."

Grocery chains have changed hours, ramped up deliveries to stores, rationed products and taken other steps to keep the shelves stocked.

Giant Eagle and Meijer on Thursday joined Walmart, Target, Whole Foods and Dollar General in setting aside time for senior citizens and shoppers with chronic health problems to shop by themselves.

See FOOD, Page A12

INSIDE & ONLINE

More on the virus: **A2-3, A5-6, A12, A16-17, B1-2, B4, B6, C1-3**

• As a public service, virus coverage on **Dispatch.com** is presented at no charge.

YMCA helping homeless in crisis

Rita Price, Holly Zachariah and Max Filby The Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Help for Ohio's most vulnerable is being deployed as the number of people who tested positive for coronavirus continued to climb Thursday.

There are 119 confirmed cases of COVID-19 scattered across 24 of the state's 88 counties. Ten people have tested positive in Franklin County.

And 33 have been hospitalized in the state, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

See YMCA, Page A6

Bad memo sowed confusion

Rick Rouan The Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose's office gave Ohio boards of elections incorrect information Monday evening about a judge's ruling, setting off a chain reaction that led to confusion among the public and local elections workers about whether polls would open as scheduled the next morning.

See CONFUSION, Page A4

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Worthwhile activity
Oral histories are one option for kids sidelined by crisis, **B6.**

Just a nice thing to do
Florist deserves bouquet of her own for giveaway, **B1.**

Weather
High 65 | Low 30
Forecast, B12

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